



School Gardening Basics

Chicago Botanic Garden

Spring 2011



School Garden Considerations

- Style/theme
 - School and garden
- Users
- Scale
- Formality
- Maintenance
- Budget



Ornamental Garden

Franklin Fine Arts Center and
Canter School



Green Infrastructure

**Our Lady Gate of Heaven - Banner Academy
2330 E. 99th Street**



Edible Garden

Walter Dyett High School Green Youth
Farm

555 E. 51st St



Campus Parks
Kennedy-King College
Frank I. Bennett School



Native Garden

Ray School—Hyde Park

Users



Scale



Style/Formality



Maintenance



Budget



School Garden Elements

- Fence
- Tool Storage
- Raised Beds/Bed delineation
- Gathering Space/benches
- Pathways
- Water
 - Hose storage/access
- Artwork
- Signage

Fences

- Direct traffic
- Prevent theft?
- Beautification/space delineation
- Protect plants



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Fences

Direct traffic

Prevent theft?

Beautification/space delineation

Protect plants





Tool Storage

Accessible to all users
Secure
Adequate
Organized



Raised Beds/Bed delineation

Student safety/health

Aesthetics during off-season

Plant health



Raised Beds/Bed delineation

Student safety/health

Aesthetics during off-season

Plant health



Gathering Spaces/Benches

Comfort

Attention Getting

Start/end the work day



Gathering Spaces/Benches

Comfort

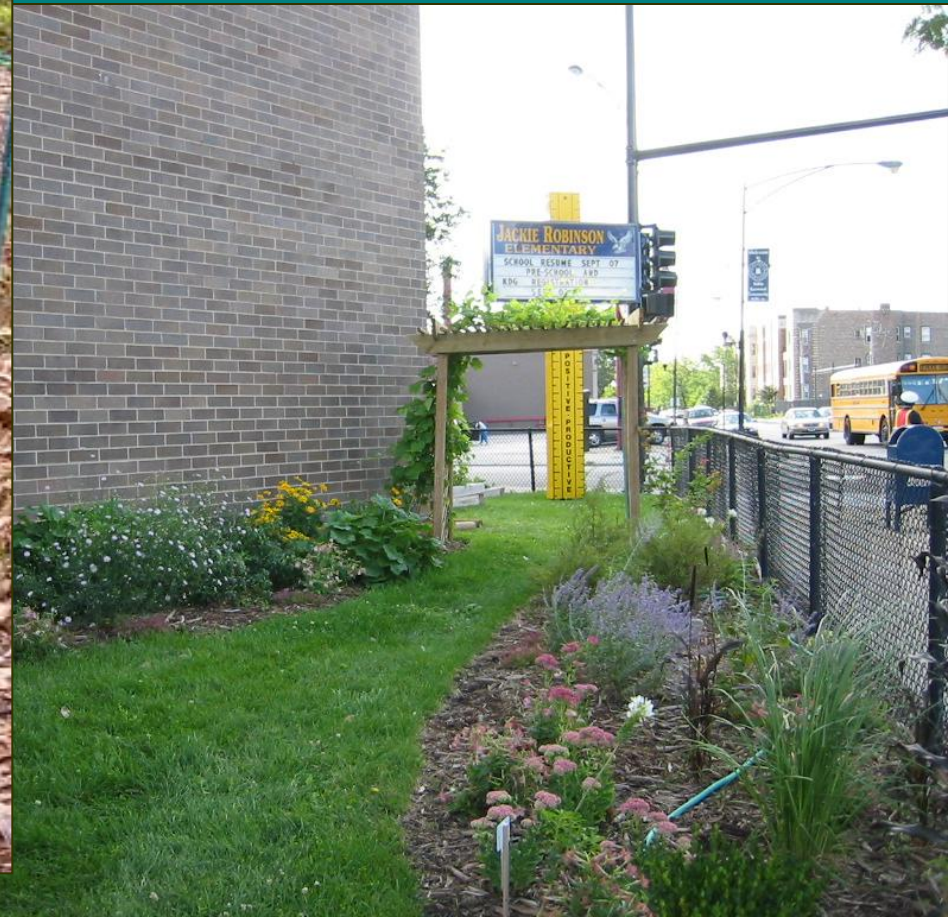
Attention Getting

Start/end the work day



Paths

Movement through the garden
Plant health
Large enough for multiple bodies
(think 4' between beds/elements)



Paths

Movement through the garden

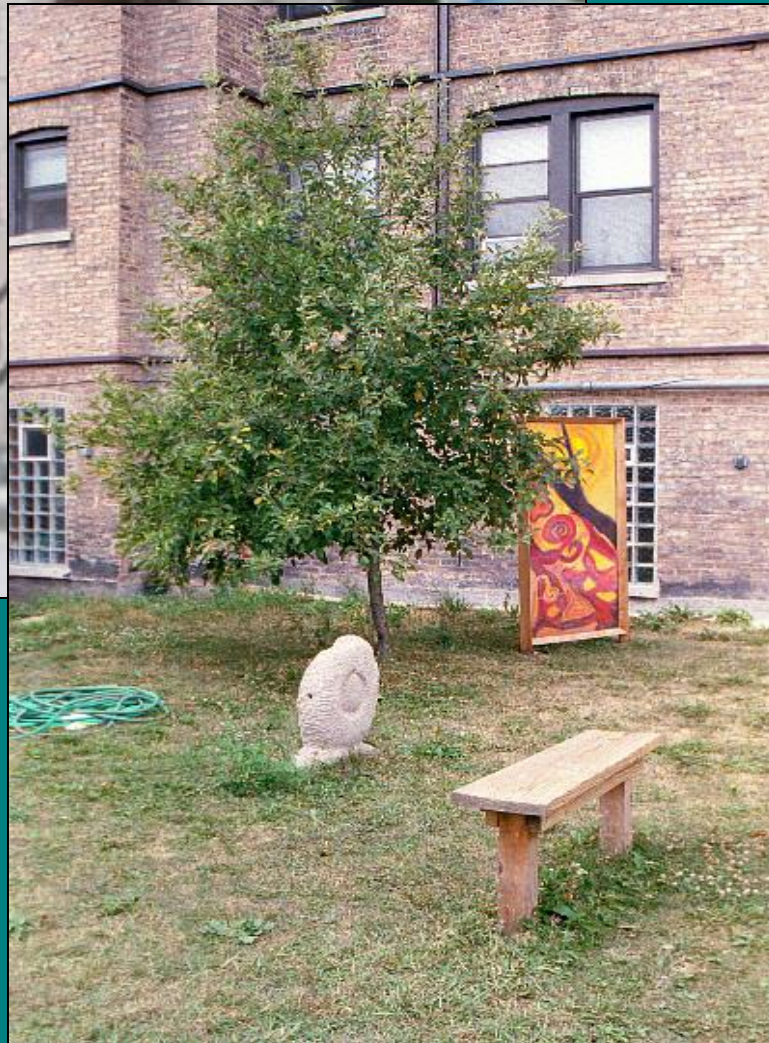
Plant health

Large enough for multiple bodies
(think 4' between beds/elements)



Artwork

Gives space character
Opportunity for more to participate
Activities during dormant season



Signage

Lends an air of permanence
Can be informative
Gives sense of ownership



Other Considerations

- Composting
- Season extension
- Fanciful elements—let the kids' imaginations run wild
- Stage for performances/outdoor classroom

Composting



Season Extension



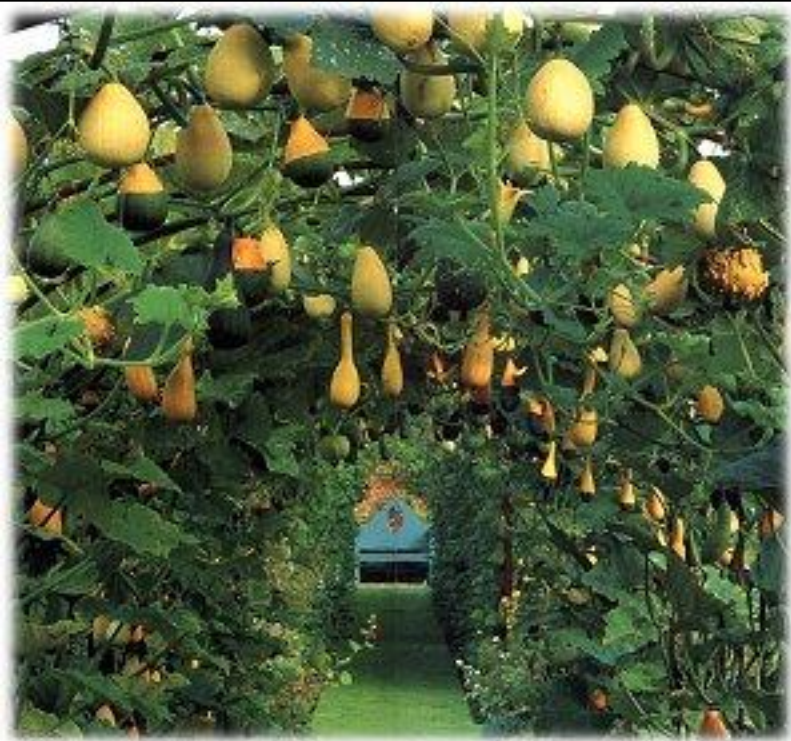


Companion
Planting



Intensive
Cultivation

Fanciful Elements



Garden Platform



Start with Design

- Have confidence!
- Brainstorm together...no idea is “bad”
- Let the kids lead
- Start small



LET'S GET GOING!!!